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Working Party on Road Transport

Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR)

Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 12 October 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session*,**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 12 October 2021, Salle Tempus 2. There will be two sessions from 10.00 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00.

The twenty-seventh session of the Group of Experts on European Agreement Concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport will be held in a dual format due to the COVID-19 situation. Participants can attend in-person or can connect via an Internet platform with simultaneous interpretation in three official languages.

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Programme of Work:
 - (a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis;
 - (b) Appendix 1C;

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the ECE Transport Division's website (www.unece.org/trans/main/sc1/sc1.html). On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (roadtransport@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

** Delegates are requested to register online at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=KFAgAN>. Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext.75716 or 75964). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

(c) Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the “AETR area”.

3. Amendment of Article 14.
4. TACHOnet.
5. Election of Deputy Chair.
6. Other Business.
7. Date and Place of Next Meeting.
8. Adoption of the Report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Group of Experts will be invited to adopt the session’s agenda (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/60).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/60

2. Programme of Work

(a) Development of proposals for amending the AETR Agreement, including Article 22bis

At the last session, on the one hand, the European Commission introduced ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2 (submitted by Portugal in its capacity as President of the Council of the European Union). The document proposes to amend AETR Articles 10, 13, 14 and 22 to respectively facilitate the inclusion of a new Appendix 1C, to determine the relevant implementation dates, to introduce the possibility of accession by regional economic integration organizations, and to change the amendment mechanisms for appendices. On the other hand, the Russian Federation introduced ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3 where it did not agree to references to EU legislation in the AETR Agreement and did not support allowing accessions by regional economic integration organizations. It also argued against having specific implementation dates not related to (possible) entry into force of Appendix 1C. At this session, the Group will be invited to continue discussing the documents in order to find a compromise solution.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3

(b) Appendix 1C

At the last session, the European Commission (on behalf of Portugal) introduced ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1 which contains proposals to modify Annex IC in order to adapt the European Union specifications on the smart tachograph to the AETR legal framework. Due to the fact that translation of this document may not be completed in the next 12 months by the UNOG Conference Services, the Group – as decided – will continue to hold consultations and to exchange information on the outstanding issues such as border crossing registration (in relation to cabotage, posting of workers), authentication service, and card formats.

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2018/1/Rev.1

(c) **Application of Regulation (European Commission) No. 561/2006 in the AETR area**

The Group will be invited to continue its discussions on this subject. In addition, the EC will be invited to give a presentation on new rules arising from amendments to Regulation No. 561/2006 (Mobility package 1).

3. Amendment of Article 14

At the last session, the secretariat tabled and introduced Informal document No.1 (June 2021) which provides a modified example of “eligibility to accede” from the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic to be considered as a possible way to amend Article 14. At this session, the secretariat will table Informal document No.1 (June 2021) with the word “convention” replaced by “agreement”.

Documentation

Informal document No.1 (June 2021)

4. TACHOnet

At the last session, the European Commission (on behalf of Portugal) introduced Informal document No. 3 which revises ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.2 (that contains a proposal to introduce a new Appendix 4). The Russian Federation reiterated its comments from ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3 where, among others, it had explained that any new Appendix of the AETR Agreement (on the exchange of information between Contracting Parties) should only contain general, technical requirements to be used while seeking and receiving information. At this session, the Group will be invited to continue discussing Informal document No. 3 (now available as ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3).

Documentation

ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2019/1/Rev.3, ECE/TRANS/SC.1/GE.21/2021/3

5. Election of Deputy Chair

At the last session, the Group did not elect the Deputy Chair postponing the election until a future session. At this session, the Group will be invited to elect the Deputy Chair.

6. Other Business

The Group of Experts may wish to discuss other business.

7. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 21 February 2022 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. The deadline for the submission of formal documents is 10 December 2021.

8. Adoption of the Report

The Group of Experts will adopt the report of this session.